



Volunteer Missionary Service General Information

Thank you for your interest in serving as a missionary with KICY. Below you will find more of the particulars of service in this unique ministry.

The Work:

We encourage volunteers to try all aspects of working in Christian Radio. We have two broadcast studios and a recording studio. You will be expected to handle an on-air shift. You may be asked to cover News events. This doesn't mean being live on the radio, but that is a distinct possibility. Though we are a non-profit corporation and are funded primarily through donations, both KICY AM and FM are commercial stations so we sell, write and produce a small number of advertising messages. Good computer knowledge and especially typing skills will be major benefits. Our AM station broadcasts in the Russian language overnight. We currently have a Russian speaking staff member who handles the responsibility of that shift.

KICY has been considered the sports leader in our region for many years. We cover all of the basketball games from Nome-Beltz High School as well as regional competition in basketball and wrestling from the Bering Strait School District. We also cover the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. This 1,100 mile race starts in Anchorage on the first Saturday in March and finishes in Nome, right in front of the Nome Covenant Church.

Staff also produces and voices advertising spots, public service announcements and "God Spots." As staffing permits, we travel to remote villages to broadcast and record regional and statewide church conferences. Each station has a distinct music library that is maintained by a staff member.

Full-time missionary volunteers can expect to work between 30 and 40 hours per week, with occasional weekend and holiday duties. The hours per day and days per week will be flexible, as radio is a 24/7 operation. Your work day may start before 7 am as we broadcast live morning programs on both stations. The Breakfast Club on KICY AM-850 and The Coffee Crew on ICY 100.3 FM both offer News, Weather, Sports, community announcements, live interviews and prize give-aways. At times you may work until 10 or 11 pm as we cover local high school basketball or village Get-Togethers. Flexibility is key.

Support:

We expect that the minimum term of service for a full-time volunteer to be for one year, with the possibility of extending for a second. As a volunteer, you will be required to raise your own monthly support of approximately \$1,200, which will be administered locally by KICY. From this, you will receive a monthly

stipend check of \$600 to cover your day-to-day expenses. Another \$275 (\$300 if internet is included) will be transferred to KICY each month for your rent. You will also need Major Medical Insurance. That too will be paid from this account. If you don't have Major Medical, we will enroll you in the Covenant Church's Medical plan. The remainder of your monthly support (if there is any left) can be used for unforeseen needs or personal travel expenses. Raising support does not have to be difficult. We will provide guidance to make this part as effortless as possible. Suggestions include asking friends, relatives, and your local church and civic organizations for financial support, or even crowd sourcing such as setting up a GoFundMe account.

Housing:

Volunteers are provided housing in one of KICY's houses or apartments, each with its own kitchen and bath. There is a washer and dryer in each building. There are three apartments inside the main studio building. These are generally reserved for full-time volunteer staff. The KICY Brown House, a few blocks from the studio, is also for full-time volunteers. There is an apartment in the basement of the Brown House, usually left open for village pastors, pilots and stranded travelers. KICY also owns The Yellow House, next door to the studio building, which is available for full-time staff housing. No tobacco products, cannabis products, or alcohol are allowed in or on any of the KICY properties.

The Culture of the Bering Strait Region and the Community of Nome:

KICY serves the people of the Bering Strait Region and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, as well as the Russian Far East. Located in Northwest Alaska, just south of the Arctic Circle, the Bering Strait region is home to several culturally distinct groups of Alaska Natives. The Inupiaq reside on the Seward Peninsula and along the coast of Norton Sound, as well as on King and Diomed Islands. The Siberian Yup'ik live on St. Lawrence Island, and are closely related culturally and linguistically to the Chukotka people of the Russian Far East. Further south, the Yup'ik and Cup'ik people of the Yukon River/Kuskokwim River Delta are also a part of our listening audience. Each group is linguistically distinct, with customs and values that overlap. While English is the main language of the region, Alaska Natives in several villages still speak their native languages, and there is a renewed interest in reviving those among the younger generation. KICY broadcasts music recorded by Alaska Natives in English as well as the three main native languages of the region. Villages are close knit communities of 150-800, each with their own school, health clinic, and airstrip. All villages in Western Alaska, including Nome, are only accessible by air most of the year. Some are accessible by boat in the summer and snow mobile in the winter.

Located on the edge of the Bering Sea on the southwest side of the Seward Peninsula, Nome is a vital hub for Northwest Alaska. Nome was a seasonal home for the native people in the region for hundreds of years, but was established as a city when placer gold was discovered by The Three Lucky Swedes in Anvil Creek in 1898. In 1899 the population of Nome swelled from a handful to 28,000. Today the population is about 3,500 and there is still some gold mining happening.

The City of Nome attempts to balance its colorful Gold Rush history within the framework of 10,000 years of Inupiaq history. Most people in Nome, whether native or not, practice some sort of subsistence that underscores the vibrancy of the indigenous culture. Hunting for moose, caribou and musk ox, catching, drying and canning fish, and gathering berries and greens are just a few of the activities that keep most

families busy all year. Today the population in Nome is about 50% Alaska Native, and Inupiaq values continue to live in the people.

Community Amenities and Activities:

There are two grocery stores in Nome. Hanson's Safeway is within walking distance from the station, just two blocks away. The Alaska Commercial Company is a little further. Be prepared for sticker shock at all the stores. Prices can be anywhere from double to triple what you might pay in the Lower 48. If you have any special dietary needs, you may want to come prepared. While you can get most things in Nome most of the time, the selection of specialty items is minimal. Nome has a post office, a credit union and a bank (Wells Fargo). The bank, credit union and grocery stores have ATM machines. If you like to eat out, Nome has a number of restaurants to choose from: American, Asian, Italian, and even a Subway. The Carrie McLain Museum is an interesting place to explore Nome's colorful gold rush history. The museum building also houses the Public Library and Katirvik Cultural Center. There are two gift shops to wander through. Dress is very casual, even for church on Sunday.

Outside of work times there is plenty to do in Nome all year round. Fishing is generally good, with Trout, Arctic Char, Grayling, and Salmon available at various times. An Alaska State fishing license is required. There are plenty of places for hiking, camping, and picnics. The Seward Peninsula is well populated with brown bears/grizzlies, musk oxen, reindeer (domesticated herds) and moose. If you are a birder, bring your binoculars because it is a birding paradise. Nome's golden sands are available for gold panning. There is the opportunity for canoeing and kayaking in local rivers and lake. Many people enjoy biking around town, and even out of town. In July and August there are plenty of blueberries and salmonberries to pick from the tundra. Winter brings snow cover and the opportunity for cross country skiing. Nome also has an ice rink for skating and hockey, and a Recreation Center with weights, basketball, and handball, as well as a two lane bowling alley. The school has a swimming pool that is open to the public.

KICY has two vehicles and, if they are not being used for station business, can be used for personal activities such as fishing trips and picnics. The current price of gasoline in Nome is \$7.00 per gallon. There are about 300 miles of roads around Nome, and drives out in the country will be some of the highlights of your time at KICY. Most things in Nome are within easy walking distance of the KICY Studio and houses.

Cell Service, WiFi, Internet, TV:

AT&T, GCI (Verizon) and Sprint cellphones work in Nome, but most service is lost just a few miles out of town. If you have a cell phone from another carrier, you will need to check with your provider to see if Nome is in their coverage area. Alaska falls within the national plans of all cell carriers. Data speed for smartphones varies and is often slow, but we have recently gotten 4G. Very few places in town offer free WiFi connections as data is capped.

Nome is served by DSL Cable internet, and fiber. Speeds are getting better and while most data is capped, unlimited plans are available. KICY has recently connected to the fiber optic network and now has unlimited internet data. You are welcome to use the internet on the main studio office computer, or the office WiFi connection on your phone. If you live in KICY housing and plan to use a streaming service, a nominal fee for KICY AM&FM: Spreading the Gospel to Western Alaska and the Russian Far East Arctic Broadcasting Association, Inc.

unlimited internet can be added to your rent. Cable television is available in town, but our sole provider is moving toward a streaming service only. Each house or apartment has cable access, but you will need to pay for your own plan.

Emergency care:

Nome has a regional hospital which includes an emergency room and clinic, but no specialists. They accept medical insurance and though technically a Native hospital, will treat anyone. There is a pharmacy at the hospital. There is a dentist in town, and two optometrists. Behavioral Health Services with licensed counselors are also available. As Nome is a remote community, there is Medivac service to Anchorage hospitals.

Climate:

Nome is in the Alaska Time Zone, which is an hour earlier than Pacific Time. The average summertime temperature in Nome will be in the upper 40's to mid 50's. However, on a nice day, it will occasionally get up into the high-60's, or even low 70's. Be prepared for summer and fall rain. Winter temperatures can reach 30 below, but typically hover around zero. High winds and horizontal snow or rain can continue for days. When the wind stops and the sun appears you will want to get out and enjoy the Arctic landscape with its breathtaking, three hour sunrises and sunsets. Nome sits on the shore of the Bering Sea, which freezes solid in the winter. Bring warm clothing and lots of layers.

Transportation to Nome:

Alaska Airlines is the only commercial, passenger airline that flies between Anchorage and Nome. They currently operate 2 flights a day on Boeing 737s, weather permitting. Travel time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes direct to Nome from Anchorage. If the flight is routed through Kotzebue, it is about 3 hours. You can redeem Alaska Airlines miles for your trip. There are no roads to Nome, so flying is the only option. Smaller 8-10 person planes connect the smaller villages in the region with scheduled service.

Oversight:

KICY is a 501(c)3 corporation governed by the board of directors of the Arctic Broadcasting Association, Inc. We are an affiliate of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Volunteers are welcome from any Christian denomination, and will be asked to agree with the general tenets of the Covenant Church found in the Policy of Faith and Partnership document in the application packet.

Contact Information:

Patty Burchell
KICY
P.O. Box 820
Nome, Alaska 99762

907-443-2213 (studio building)

www.kicy.org

generalmanager@kicy.org

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Arctic Broadcasting Association, Inc.

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